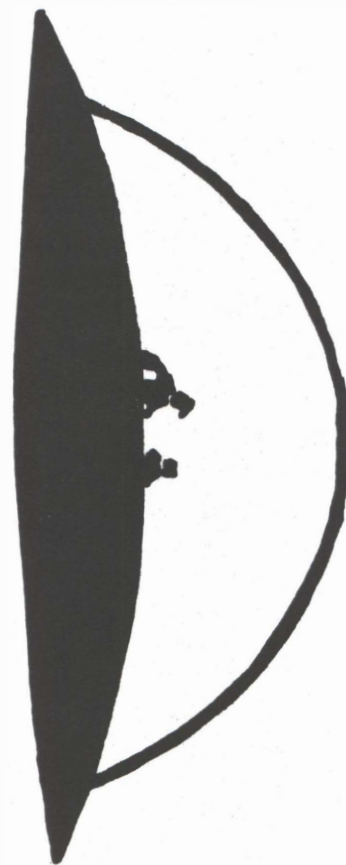
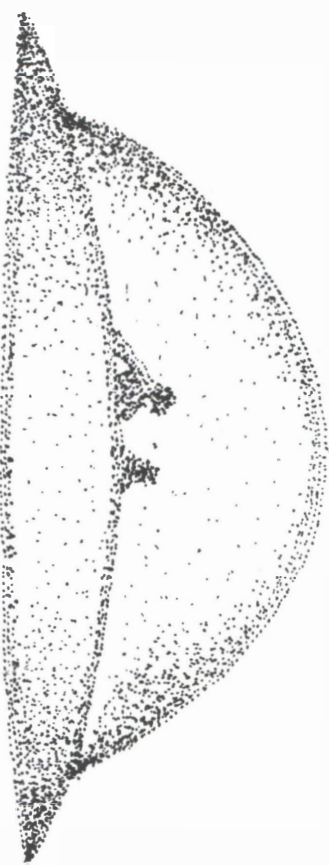


UFO COMMENTARY

A Journal of Progressive UFOlogy

Vol. 2 No. 2 Summer 1971



POLEMICS

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EDITORIAL



After two and a half years of editing a UFO magazine which has more than quadrupled its circulation since its first issues, I have decided that my active interest in the field must come to a stop. This wasn't an easy decision to make as the editor who as devoted all of his extra time to a magazine, at the loss of some of life's elementary pleasures, and feels somewhat like a mother who has lost her child to the world or like the captain of a sinking ship. As its creator, I only hope that COMMENTARY, unlike a ship, is unsinkable. But I cannot continue as its captain.

There are several ways, some of which have become notoriously traditional for an editor to drop out of the UFO field. First of all, he can change his name, move, and leave no forwarding address. Or he can say that he has been silenced by the Men-in-Black and claim, heroically, that superior forces will not allow him to continue his deep probings into THEIR secrets, into which he probably had not even inserted his little finger. He might also give his subscription list to another editor and let his magazine be incorporated into another. And finally, he can let someone else take over and let the magazine continue.

In such as the latter case, however, the magazine usually isn't of any great quality to begin with, the new editor usually isn't qualified and the turned over magazine begins to go down the drain, flushed most certainly by the fates. But UFO COMMENTARY has reached a fairly high standard of quality in comparison with the best UFO magazines in the United States and abroad. But it isn't perfect. It is too easy to blame a magazine's failures on "lack of interest of the readers," "lack of funds," or the like, and I only blame myself for what COMMENTARY could have been and never was. But I feel that COMMENTARY is good enough to be continued and should not be retired to the graveyard or wherever the great magazine heaven might be.

This issue then is my last issue for which I shall be entirely responsible: collection of material, editing, typing, proofreading, mimeographing, collating, mailing, etc. Allen Benz, now my Assistant Editor, will take over gradually with the help of some others. I'll still be in there possibly publishing another issue, and helping Allen in any way I can to make the transition as smooth as possible. All submissions and other editorial matters must be sent to him at his address. (Allen Benz, Box 548, Tipton, Missouri 65081.) I will still be handling the orders for a while as I am still publishing the magazine. Everything else should be sent directly to him including exchanges.

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A FEW APPROPRIATE QUOTES ON POLEMICS

Zoologist Ivan T. Sanderson once defined ufology as "an intellectual exercise" of merit only as a means for developing a philosophic viewpoint. In Pursuit, January 1971, page 19, he states: "So far there is only one theory that has come to our attention that meets all the very stringent strictures that we place upon any and every theory... This has now been put forward by more than half a dozen advanced scientists, several technologists, and four or five workers in other fields, notably journalism. Each has come to the same point independently. This we consider to be of the utmost significance... For now, let it be stated as follows: UFOs, and other, space-time-continua that may be said- for simplicity's sake- to exist and run on parallel lines to the one that we are in... This is an old theory but the current approach to it is novel in that these projections are now being conceived of as holograms in form but material in content. In other words, they 'come through' from other space-time-gravities and go back into them..."

The above is, of course, the oldest and most widely-held occult theory known. It is, in fact, the foundation for all of man's major religious beliefs and is embraced by the cosmologies of every great thinker in history, from Buddha and Socrates to Einstein, Fred Hoyle and even Arthur C. Clarke. On other levels it is the basis for spiritualism, voodoo, witchcraft and the UFO contactee cults. Leading theologians and philosophers have written massive, abstract tomes on the same subject. RAF Air Marshal Sir Victor Goddard has seriously proposed it as the most logical explanation to the UFO enigma. Yet, incredibly, the fringe UFO believers have rejected it in favor of the far-more-speculative and completely unsupported concept of "an advanced technology" of physical origin on some other planet. This minority viewpoint has inspired endless polemics and a controversy which has proven to be not only ineffective but has been ultimately destructive to that viewpoint. Their arguments have been evangelistic and their general behavior is identical to that of religious fanatics.

In his 1966 lectures before the Department of Psychiatry, Johns Hopkins University, Dr. John C. Lilly (who is world-famous for his revolutionary experiments in communicating with dolphins) approached these problems. "There are antithetical philosophies which cause diverse intellectual activities," he said. "It may be that such conflict is necessary for the intellectual advancement of each individual... The value systems of each intellectual reflect his prejudices, his biases, his blindness, as well as his areas of competence... One technique of raising what one and one's most intimate colleagues know above the surrounding intellectual terrain is to literally dig an intellectual moat around one's field of activity. To dig this moat one demeans and denigrates areas of knowledge and individuals in those fields surrounding one's own field. This kind of activity seems to be almost built-in in our structure as biological organisms."

Dr. Lilly also addressed himself to the problems of communicating with extraterrestrial life (NASA partially financed his experiments). "Group acceptance of undemonstrated theorems and of seductive beliefs adds no more validity to the theorems and to the beliefs than one's own phantasizing can add," he stated. "Anacletic group behavior is no better than solitudinous phantasies of 'the truth!'"

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For many years now, ufology has consisted of two anaclitic groups who have had, interestingly enough, little or no contact with each other and certainly no tolerance for each other. The majority group consists of many thousands of percipients (contactees) who have had some direct personal involvement with the phenomenon and who have accepted certain beliefs and biases based upon their subjective experiences. There are dozens of large and small organizations worldwide which have quietly united these people and their beliefs. Some of these groups publish lavish and expensive magazines and newsletters. The minority group, on the other hand, consists of a few hundred people (during the peak years of UFO interest in 1966-68 their number reached about 5,000) who have had little or no personal involvement with the phenomenon. This secondary group is made up primarily of teenagers and housewives (while the first group includes many doctors, lawyers and other professionals). As a substitute for personal experience the secondary group has developed a set of acceptances or beliefs to explain the experiences of the majority group. Yet, ironically, they have steadfastly refused to examine, or even to consider, the claims of the majority group...primarily because those claims are often contrary to the minority group's acceptances.

"Being driven to a set of assumptions because one is afraid of another set and their consequences is the most passionate and nonobjective kind of philosophy," according to Dr. Lilly.

The catenation of the contactee experience throughout history provides a sound criterion for judging present and future manifestations of the phenomenon. Unfortunately, the minority group has failed to recognize and utilize this basic criterion. They have, instead, dedicated their main efforts to polemics and to evangelism. Rather than attempt to understand the complex nature of the phenomenon, they have accepted a set of "safe" assumptions and then attempted to fit the manifestations into those assumptions. This has made it necessary to ignore or exclude all factors- all reported observations and manifestations- which fail to conform to their accepted model. Such exclusions not only compound the primary "mystery" but they also render impossible any chance for arriving at a satisfactory understanding of its nature.

Obviously the personal, highly subjective experiences of the majority group can not be regarded as proof of the validity of the beliefs they have inspired. But, at least, those experiences can be examined medically and through psychological testing and other modern scientific methods. But whenever the minority group has attempted such testing their chief concern has been to establish the "reliability" of the percipient's character rather than the reliability of his experience. This quest for reliability has been nothing more than a search for verification of the beliefs and assumptions of the minority group without attempting to understand that the manifestations were actually part of the mechanism used to create and support the more unpalatable beliefs of the majority group. When the percipients' experiences failed to support the "safe" assumptions of the minority they were rejected as "unreliable."

The essential problem of ufological research is to discard all assumptions and beliefs and adopt a posture of total objectivity. The extraterrestrial hypothesis has been a handicap to UFO research. Its continuous rejection by governmental agencies, scientists and journalists has given rise to the subsidiary

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PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND UFOs

by Allen Benz

From time to time I will be informing the readers about the UFO holdings in various public libraries throughout the United States.

This installment will focus on the San Diego, California, Public Library. To my knowledge, this library has one of the most extensive collections of published UFO material in the United States. American readers should know that they can borrow most of this material through their local library by using the interlibrary loan system. Ask your local library for details.

The list of holdings:

The Case for the UFO	M. K. Jessup
The Expanding Case for the UFO	"
The UFO Annual	"
UFOs and the Bible	Barry J. Downing
Flying Saucer Conspiracy	Donald E. Keyhoe
Flying Saucers: Top Secret	"
Flying Saucers Have Landed	George Adamski & Desmond Leslie
Flying Saucers	Donald H. Menzel
The World of Flying Saucers	Donald H. Menzel & Lyle G. Boyd
Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery	Aime Michel
The Truth about Flying Saucers	"
Flying Saucers and Common Sense	Waveney Girvan
Piece for a Jig Saw	Leonard G. Cramp
Uninvited Visitors	Ivan T. Sanderson
Anatomy of a Phenomenon	Jacques Vallee
Challenge to Science	"
The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects Incident at Exeter	Edward J. Ruppelt John G. Fuller
The Interrupted Journey	"
The Flying Saucer Reader	Jay David
Flying Saucers: Serious Business	Frank Edwards
Flying Saucers Here and Now	"
The Great Flying Saucer Hoax	Coral E. Lorenzen
Flying Saucers: The Startling Evidence of the Invasion from Outer Space	"
Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects UFOs? Yes!	Edward U. Condon David R. Saunders & R. Roger Harkins Gavin Gibbons
The Coming of the Space Ships	"
They Rode in Space Ships	"
Flying Saucers Through the Ages	Paul Thomas
The Flying Saucer Vision	John Michell

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FSR's World Roundup of UFO Sightings &
Events, 1958

The True Report on Flying Saucers
The New Report on Flying Saucers
Flying Saucers: A LOOK Special
The Coming of the Saucers

The UFO Evidence
Identified Flying Saucers
Behind the Flying Saucers
Flying Saucers Farewell
Inside the Space Ships

Periodicals:

Flying Saucer Review
The APRO Bulletin
Flying Saucers (Palmer)

Flying Saucer Review
Frank Bowers, ed.

"

UPI Editors & Cowles, Inc.
Kenneth Arnold &
Ray Palmer
Richard Hall, ed.
Robert Loftin
Frank Scully
George Adamski

"

1959 to date
1960 to date
various issues
fairly extensive

The library does not loan its periodicals, however, they will generally make copies of material that cannot be loaned.

I hope the above list will be of assistance to readers, especially those living in areas where this material is not readily available.

END

UFOs OVER THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE by Michael Hervey, J. P., F.I.A.L. hailed as one of the most important books of its kind. Result of 20 years of research. Contains complete record of more than a thousand authentic and completely documented sightings -- including saucer nests. No rubbishy inventions. Just pure, unadulterated facts. \$1.20 (includes postage & packing.) HAMPTON PRESS, Henley, 2111, Australia.

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(Editorial continued from page 4)

I would have rather dropped the magazine entirely, without the assurance that whoever would take over would at least keep up the quality of COMMENTARY, if not improve it. If my beliefs and hopes are correct, the latter will be the case. For all of you who have supported me and COMMENTARY, and especially for Larry W. Bryant, THANK YOU. Patrick Huyghe.

LOST OR MISPLACED

by Richard E. Walton

Many things have been said about the Condon Committee during the past few years, most of them bad. There were "reports" of material being lost or "misplaced" by the project. It has happened at least once, to me.

On June 23, 1967, I took a star trail photograph with Polaris, the north star, near center. A picture like this is easy to take, one simply points the camera at the area of sky to be photographed and takes a time exposure with fast film. The color slide I took was exposed from 11:20-11:50 P. M., 30 minutes. No unusual phenomena were observed visually during the exposure time, When I got the slide back however, there was an 's' shaped green line amidst the stars. I thought it may have been a scratch on the film, and had it examined by professional photographers. Their conclusion: no scratch. I took similar pictures with the same equipment and could find no trace of light leaks. I had duplicate slides and prints made and then turned the original slide over to Mr. Kevin J. Collins, who in turn sent it to Mr. Rod B. Dyke in Seattle, Washington., for analysis. Mr. Dyke forwarded it to the Condon project. That was the last anyone saw of the slide.

In a letter from Mrs. Haslett, of the project, to Mr. Dyke, it is stated that the slide and other materials had been received. That letter was dated March 29, 1968.

On October 21, Mr. Dyke sent a letter to Dr. Condon requesting that the materials be sent back to him. The answer he received made everyone wonder what the project was doing: "...please bear with me while I look in boxes, on top of files, etc., etc." "...It would help perhaps if I knew from whom you received the letter of March 29." The letter was signed by Mrs. Shapley, secretary to Dr. Condon. Mr. Dyke sent the asked for information. He received another letter from Mrs. Shapley: "...I found Mrs. Hasletts' letter to you, and a letter she wrote to Mr. Hartman asking him to write to you about a time estimate. Did you ever hear from him?" "...I hope you will appreciate the fact that I am trying to find something in a system of filing that I never had need to know about and one which obviously fell apart in the last frantic days of trying to meet a report deadline added to the fact that too rooms were hastily cleared out by people who also had no knowledge of things."

In a letter of December 10, 1968, Mr. Dyke states that he never received a letter from Dr. Hartman.

In a letter of January 20, 1969, Mr. Dyke stated: "...if we don't get our slide, negative, and report forms back soon -- the press, John Fuller, NICAP, and our senators will find out about it -- they will anyway!"

On January 29, Dr. Condon himself replied-- "...As for your threats...I guess we can absorb a little more unwarranted abuse. If you wish to take that route, we will stop looking for the missing material."

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THE ANGELS LOST THEIR HAIR!

by Michael Hervey, J.P.

Recently in Western Australia stones showered out of a clear blue sky on several occasions for no apparent rhyme or reason. They were mainly directed at a farm occupied by a family by the name of Donaldson. The police were called in but they were unable to solve the mystery. According to one witness the stones seemed to fall quite softly "as if the law of gravity was not working as it should!"

Another similar mysterious shower took place earlier in the year (1970) at East Brunswick, Victoria. People in the streets were flabbergasted and amazed when it started to rain white marbles towards mid-day. The round objects weighed almost an ounce each, and were about one inch in diameter. People who saw the marbles fall said that they were not visible until they were about ten feet from the ground.

Mr. William Ariss, on whose house some of the marbles fell told reporters: "I've hit it with an engineer's hammer but can't even make a dent on it. When you throw one on concrete it will bounce about twelve feet. They're all the same. It's uncanny."

A further shower of marbles descended later in the evening. Once more the police were unable to provide a solution.

In Whitsett, USA, Mr. H.D. Lambeth, the principal of an elementary school there, witnessed a shower of a different sort. He described it as "angel hair." More than a hundred of his pupils substantiated the fall which consisted of a "light coloured wispy material, similar to spun glass or cotton candy."

In St. Louis, USA, on August 20th, 1956, Mrs. William Jenkins looked out of her window and saw that her front yard was littered with monster wads of facial tissue, some as large as wash tubs. On going to investigate she found, much to her surprise and astonishment, that the wads consisted of foam, which kept floating down from the sky.

She called the police: newspaper photographers followed in due course. They took their pictures, and then it started to rain, with the result that the foam slowly dissolved in front of their eyes. Once again an explanation was not forthcoming.

Mrs. R. Adams of Barrow-in-Furness, England, stood at her front door watching the snow descend. She put out her hand to capture a few flakes when out of nowhere a pink straw hat adorned with a rose floated into her hand.

Another woman in Lancashire went out into her back yard with the intention of getting a bucket of coal. She had no sooner stepped out of doors than a fried egg gently wafted down to land softly at her feet.

(continued on page 16)

THE SHADOW OF THE UNKNOWN by Coral E. Lorenzen (New American Library, New York, 1970, 75¢) -- Even though this book gets off to a very slow start with the recounting of a series of miscellaneous "psychic" incidents, it nevertheless manages to quicken its pace in later chapters. The reader can all but guess what re-hash incidents will be retold by scanning the various chapter headings (such as "Creatures", "Mysterious Marks in the Ground", "Aerial Ice", etc.) but on the whole the book is worthwhile having because of a number of "new" cases found within these chapters. I am quite sure that you will enjoy it.

THE WRIGHT FIELD STORY by James W. Moseley (Saucerian Books, W. Virginia, 1971, \$4.95) -- One of the original private UFO researchers tells a number of behind-the-scenes anecdotes in a most pleasurable fashion which occurred during the '50s and early '60s. It seems to me, however, that unless you are a hard-core "buff", who enjoys nostalgic reminiscing, the book could become slightly tedious. We've all seen the photos before, and we've heard of the incidents before, so the only thing holding this together is the "aura" of Moseley's reputation. Fortunately, his vibrations come through loud and clear...

FLYING SAUCERS: AN ANALYSIS OF THE AIR FORCE PROJECT BLUE BOOK SPECIAL REPORT NO. 14 prepared by Dr. Leon Davidson; Fourth Edition January 1971 (Saucerian Publications, West Virginia, 1971, \$4.95) -- Please note that this is not a review of PBBSR#14, but a review of the Saucerian Fourth Edition. The original reprint, which first appeared in 1956, has been reviewed elsewhere many times previous to this. The latest Saucerian edition contains the following additions to the third edition: a sticker on the front cover stating that this is the revised fourth edition, an interesting one-page "Author's Note" on the inside of the front cover written by Davidson, a new revised table of contents, a four page section from the Air Force describing the "Final Air Force Summary after closing Project Blue Book in 1969," and two articles by Davidson which were reprinted from antique back-issues of SAUCER NEWS. All in all, Saucerian did a neat job of reprinting the third edition, and anyone not already owning a copy of this Davidson analysis is advised to order this "new" edition. If, however, you already own the third edition (or any other for that matter) don't waste your money on this one, as there is nothing in it really worth the extra bread.

UFOS OVER THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE by Michael Hervey (Horwitz Publications, Inc., Ltd., 406 Lonsdale St., Melbourne, Australia, 3000, 1969, \$1.25) -- This book is a very worthwhile contribution to any ufologist's library, in that it provides an extensive compilation of UFO sightings which occurred in Australia and New Zealand: sort of a "mini" UFO EVIDENCE. Worthy of note are the large number of "first-hand reports" taken from the personal correspondences of the author with various witnesses. Highly recommended.

GOD, MAN AND THE UFO'S by Ernest P. Moyer (Carlton Press, New York, 1970, \$6.50) -- Every once in a while a truly unique UFO book makes it into publication; and this is one of them. In the 200 pages of the first half Moyer explores a mass of little-known material on the life and writings of Jonathan Swift (the author of "Gulliver's Travels"). As many of you are probably well aware, Swift is noted in fortean literature as the "discoverer" of the moons of Mars. This facet of

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Swift's life is covered in detail, but the bulk of the material presented concentrates on the speculation that Swift may have been a contactee. In fact, a good amount of space is given to comparisons between modern contactees, such as Adamski and Fry, and Swift. Some of the correlations are quite amazing. The second half of the book focuses on the relationships between the gods of the Earth and the extraterrestrial visitors. At times Moyer tends to wander a bit, but usually in a most interesting way; not to mention "heavy" way -- his philosophical meanderings are exceptional. This is an excellent book, all the way around.

BEHOLD...THE VENUS GARUDA by Robert Dickoff (R. E. Dickoff Publisher, New York, 1968, \$5.00) -- The author of this "book" is the Sungma Tenzing Lama, Robert Ernst Dickoff, Ph.D.; director of the Buddhist UFO Research Center and bearer of a Doctorate of Philosophy and Doctorate of Divinity from the American Indian Association, Inc. - not to mention his receipt of the "Baron Cross of Honour" from the Ordo-Equestries Militaris Avatar, England in 1950. Naturally, the implications of this string of titles, honors, etc. is obvious: how can one help but believe in the existence of "Cannibal Venusian Birdmen who regard Earthmen as steaks and mutton" when someone of such obvious authority deems it so? Unfortunately, the reader of BEHOLD...THE VENUS GARUDA does not even have to read the book to realize that something is amiss; just glancing through it is enough to start one thinking. First of all, please note that the publisher is Robert E. Dickoff. I can overlook misspellings, poor typing, corrections made in pencil, cross-outs, the fact that most of the advertised "rare" photos were borrowed from various art books and were even seen before in previous Dickoff books, the fact that most of the print runs vertical instead of horizontal, the fact that the book came packaged in a Sears plastic shirt bag, and even the fact that the cover consists of a photo of a "Java Bird Man" stuck to a piece of cardboard with Elmer's Glue-all. The thing that really bugs me is that some of the pages are bound in the "book" UPSIDEDOWN! It's not bad enough that the reader has to read the book sideways to start with, but now he winds up twisting it 90° every fifth page or so. Sort of deflates my mental image of the perfection that Lama should be striving for. Need I comment on the content too???

RADIX by Bill Looney (Branch-Smith, Inc., Fort Worth, Texas, 1971, \$5.95)-- The author met the "angels of Light" on October 2nd, 1967 in the mountains of Israel. According to Looney: "The Angels of Light, vibrating at the speed of light, can control the radiant energy present within their life vibration. They can regulate light rays as easily as one can regulate the volume of a radio. By controlled regulation of light rays the Light Angles can raise and lower the densities of their bodies and space ships at will, thereby alternately appearing visible and becoming invisible to the human eye. These angels go about their business on earth unnoticed but on occasion they will reveal themselves." These "angels", says Looney, are of the same breed of angels which we encounter in the Bible, and much of his book is given to exploring this idea through the examination of Biblical quotations. About ten years or so ago this book would have been dismissed out-of-hand as completely preposterous and consigned to the scrap heap as such. During the past few years, however, ufologists have been giving the "ultraterrestrial" concept a very hard look, so it is entirely possible that the Angels of Light should be considered accordingly.

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UFO'S AND DIAMAGNETISM by Eugene H. Burt (Exposition Press, Inc., Jericho, New York, 1970, \$5.00) -- The crux of this volume lies in an unorthodox theoretical approach to magnetism; more specifically, diamagnetism. Although I have had several college-level physics courses and have a Bachelor of Science in Engineering I am not a physicist and cannot safely comment on the feasibility of Mr. Burt's theory. I can, however, state that all the commonly accepted laws of physics as explained in the book are reliable. In sum, Burt's theory revolves around the concept of an "inverted" magnetic field. The every-day variety of magnetic field is caused by the movement of electrons. Burt hypothesizes a magnetic field different than the one we are familiar with, caused by the movement of positive particles. This inverted magnetic field is repulsive in nature to the common magnetic field and is utilized in the propulsion systems of the UFOs. It is extremely difficult to do justice to this theory and book in one paragraph, so I would suggest that anyone with an interest in science and/or mathematics get a copy of this most fascinating book and judge for themselves.

GODS FROM OUTER SPACE by Erich von Daniken (G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1971, \$5.95) -- Anyone who has read Erich von Daniken's previous book, CHARIOTS OF THE GODS?, will have a pretty fair idea of what to expect in this follow-up work. Included are the usual mysterious archaeological sites: Easter Island, the Nazca Lines, Tiahuanaco, etc. along with the shelf-worn theory of early extraterrestrial contact with these people in ancient times. There are, however, two important factors which make this new book far more intriguing than CHARIOTS OF THE GODS? The first is the inclusion of the author's comments resulting from his on-the-spot investigation of several of the sites. This personal touch does a great deal to improve the style. The second is von Daniken's use of analogy to modern technology in describing various items of now extinct cultures -- a good deal of the scientific data is relatively fresh. Of particular interest is von Daniken's rebuttal to Thor Heyerdahl's theories regarding the carving and erection of the Easter Island Aku-Akus. A good book.

INTERCEPT - BUT DON'T SHOOT: THE TRUE STORY OF THE FLYING SAUCERS by Renato Vesco (Grove Press, Inc., New York, 1971, \$8.50) -- Following in the wake of his article which appeared in the August, 1969 issue of ARGOSY, Renato Vesco pursues the theory that UFOs are Earth-made flying machines being launched from secret bases hidden within the Canadian wilderness. Doubtless this book, as it was with the original article, will initiate much unfavorable comment from the ufological community. This, apparently, is due to the fact that the author treads on sacred ground when he attempts to despoil or disrupt, with a tap of the typewriter, the more exotic hypotheses shared by most ufologists. Notwithstanding the probability that most of what Vesco states is balderdash, there remains the awesome reality that man-made flying saucers ARE technically feasible. Of course, this may have little or nothing to do with the notion at hand, but it is an interesting thought nonetheless. Personally, I found the book most enjoyable from an engineering standpoint in that it detailed the development of the German secret weapons which were nearly complete, or so says Vesco, before the end of World War II. There are also a number of interesting UFO cases cited, together with some material on the historical development of the aircraft industries. As far as Vesco's theory itself goes; I will leave that judgement up to the individual reader.

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PASSPORT TO ETERNITY by Laurence W. Foreman (Laurence W. Foreman, Publisher, 334½ W. 33rd St., Los Angeles, Ca. 90007, 1970, \$7.00) -- Seems like years since I've read an honest-to-goodness contactee book, and this one is a real beauty. Not since the days of Orfeo Angelucci and his six-inch spacewoman dancing in a water-glass, has there been such a charming story as this. Naturally, all the basics are here: benevolent spacemen seeking to lend a helping hand to Earthmen, beautiful spacemen (in this case though, they are of average looks, but glow with an inner beauty), huge spacecraft out in the desert, deep seated philosophy, awe inspiring revelations, etc., etc. The difference is in Mr. Foreman's warmth and amiable personality, which comes through in this most enjoyable "tale". If you liked the old standby contactees of the Fifties, you'll love Larry Foreman.

INVISIBLE RESIDENTS: A DISQUISITION UPON CERTAIN MATTERS MARITIME, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF INTELLIGENT LIFE UNDER THE WATERS OF THIS EARTH by Ivan T. Sanderson (The World Publishing Company New York, 1970, \$7.50) -- Well, the Rumpelstilzchen-type title all but alleviates the necessity of my having to summarize the theme of Mr. Sanderson's latest offering in his "pursuit of the unknown." Many of the topics presented have seen print before in one form or another, e. g. the gold "airplane", the Lorenzenian-style listing of UFO sightings connected with bodies of water, the undersea "lightwheels", etc.; but it is nice to have them all under one cover. Also, any budding fortean enigmatologists will find this a handy textbook of forteana. One point though: through about the first 90% of the book we are given the distinct impression that all the apparently unrelated phenomena would be tied together in the end. Unfortunately, in my opinion, this gossamer promise remain unfulfilled -- there was no concrete link-up. However, it seems to me that Ivan Sanderson's superb writing style all but fills this void.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT FLYING SAUCERS by Rev. David F. Webber (Southwest Radio Church, P.O. Box 1144, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101, 1970, \$1.50) -- This booklet is another in the series of Biblical interpretation books which attempt to draw conclusions and correlations between Bible quotations and modern UFO sightings. Nicely put together and worth the price.

(Lost or Misplaced continued from page 9)

While reading over the Dyke-Condon correspondence many things didn't make sense. It seems to me that a \$500,000 project would not put materials sent to it for study "in boxes" or "on top of files". The secretary to the head of the project knows nothing about the filing systems of that project. Project offices are cleared out by people who have "no knowledge of things". The head of a government project says he will stop looking for the materials of a private citizen if it is made known that they are lost.

When considering these facts, it seems to me that the ability of Dr. Condon's project to perform an objective study is questionable. Very questionable.

END

THE
JOHN
RIMMER
COLUMN

In these notes I shall be giving my opinions on a variety of topics, ufologic al and otherwise. I shall at times be incoherent, illogical and libellous, some-times all at once. If you wish to complain, threaten or pour scorn, please write to me (6 Norgate St., Liverpool, L4 6RH, England), and not to poor Mr. Huyghe, who has got troubles of his own.

One of the advantages of being a ufologist in Liverpool is that there are so few UFOs to investigate, so one may employ one's time and labour on more constructive pursuits. One of these is reading the load of bumph which gets pushed through the letterbox daily. By this I am not referring to the unsolicited adverts for porn-ography or the Reader's Digest, but to the numerous prospecti for the further out publishing extremeties of our hobby. A new publication offers 'accurate recogni-tion' of friendly and hostile UFOs, presumably listing plans, elevations, identity markings, house flags, funnels, number-plates, etc. After checking out your UFO and concluding it hostile, turn to another page and learn how to destroy it with "a simple unlicensed devise - now owned and used daily by millions". The book, says the author, is aimed at "pilots, aeroplane and all ground crew, all police, truckers, insurance company employees, motorists, pedestrians, all people every-where who value their lives, family members, pets friends and property". This seems to leave bus -drivers, Irish tap-dansers, flute players with the New York Philharmonic and amateur brain surgeons particularly vulnerable.

* * *

Recently, Britain was shivering and stumbling through an electricity blackout. No strange luminous glows over power stations though, no mysterious discs following high-tension wires. Just a strike. Sorry.

* * *

Would I be right in thinking that American ufologists are, on the whole, to the right in politics? In fact are ufologists' attitude to the subject mirrored by their political beliefs? Some of the extremist space-brother magazines seem to be a mixture of Reds-under-the-bed-and-fluoride-in-the-water paranoia, BibleBelt revivalism, and George Wallacism. The more moderate the ufological attitude, the more liberal (in the current British usage of the word) the political attitude that can be deduced from the magazine. This seems to hold good for Britain too, even allowing for the great moderation of British politics. Two of the most open-minded British ufomags are edited by avowed Liberals (equivalent to moderate Democrats in the USA). One of the most farout journals, ufowise, shows almost fascist and anti-semitic attitudes.

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The question of ufologists' politics is part of the much wider question of what kind of people become interested in ufos. Once past the pre-adolescent kiddie-winkie stage at which people may be expected to be interested in anything strange and ludicrous, a number of distinct streams emerge. I can only speak with authority on British ufologists. The situation in the US appears to be somewhat different. There is the genuine scientist, with an objective interest in the subject as a valid phenomenon worth of study. These people are totally boring and not worth bothering about. They are the sort of people who get worked up about ball-lighting and space-probes. Then there are the dear old ladies (men and women) who get very sentimental about the space brothers. They keep tortoises, eat prunes and wholemeal bread, tend to spiritualism and theosophy, and are rather sad, lonely people. These people should be distinguished from the genuine crank. He is the person (always 'he') who builds strange devices to attract saucers, and is usually the only member of a UFO group who claims to have seen one. The next group, and numerically the strongest, are the "organisation men." These are the chairmen and treasurers, the secretaries, the skywatch-organisers, the regional-coordinators, the area supervisors, precinct captains, and western-hemisphere grand global uberkommandant research assistants. They are the backbone of the groups, magazines, and conferences. They are the fiercely loyal and always ready to tread hard on any outsider who criticises their precious organisation. They are also totally uninterested in ufology. They want to organise and arrange. They want to have titles. (Judging by some of the ufozines I've seen, there are an awful lot of title-seekers in America!) They would be just as happy running a dog breeders society or a small-town political club. They are the greatest enemy of progress in ufology, and should be exterminated ruthlessly. They are parasites feeding on the body of genuine research, narrow-minded, humourless bigots.

Remember - Boredom Kills!

(THE ANGELS LOST THEIR HAIR! continued from page 10)

Since the beginning of April 1970 trees and bushes on the outskirts of two German villages near Stuttgart have been festooned almost every night with sausages which seemingly drop like manna from the heavens above.

German sausage experts have examined the sausages and pronounced them of excellent quality.

In many other parts of the world it has rained ink, fishes, frogs, newts, tadpoles, worms and eels, among other things. The late Charles Fort recorded more than a thousand of these strange showers in a book which he called "The Book of the Damned!"

Perhaps the strangest thing ever to fall out of the sky was a tiny little beast "with the face of a monkey, ears of a rat, wings like a chicken and a tail like that of a scorpion." It was covered in red hair and mewed like a kitten. Mrs. Leon Eaves of Houston, captured this weird little creature last May. She put it in a fruit jar: it died towards evening.

END

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



RE: "Letters From the Air Force on UFOs", UFO COMMENTARY, Vol.1 No.2, pp. 5-10.

"...The journal is both diverse in subject matter and specific in relating facts and objective analysis. Of course, some speculation is essential; how else would science have "progressed" to its present status. I liked the article "Letters From the Air Force on UFOs" by Larry W. Bryant. Too often the USAF has been denounced as conniving with the CIA and other intelligence groups to deceive the American public into believing UFOs were no problem or at least nothing out of the ordinary. (In reference to Bryant's comments on pages 7 and 8, I had the same experience.) These charges can't be proved, but contradiction and intentionally misleading statement does prove some sort of shenanigan to achieve as yet an unknown purpose..."

— Terry W. Colvin, June 24, 1970.

RE: UFO COMMENTARY, Vol.1 No.4.

"I have received your recent issue of UFO COMMENTARY and I have to congratulate you for your publication and I hope you will keep up in your noble effort to bring the more recent news in the UFO field..." -- Guillermo Aldunati, Feb. 28, 1971.

RE: "A Theory on UFO Operation", UFO COMMENTARY Vol.1 No.3, pp. 13,16.

"...In the article, "A Theory on UFO Operation", Mr. Mobley makes a 'slightly' erroneous statement: science does not state that atomic particles are "small charges of energy", it states that those 'little bits' we call protons and electrons are pieces of matter carrying an electrical charge. In regards to the comments you mention in your note at the end of his article, I can look at an automobile and say 'I see no visible means of propulsion'. When I open up the hood, I can. I wonder if Mr. Mobley lifted up the hood (so to speak) of the UFO. Also, did he mean 'it made no sound' or did he mean that there was no sound within the range of human hearing? I am interested in what Mr. Mobley has to say..."

— Richard E. Walton, September 23, 1970.

RE: Mr. Walton's letter (above) regarding "A Theory on UFO Operation".

"Regarding his comment that matter and energy are not one and the same, he sure is brave for a student, I would not have the guts to tackle Einstein's theories like that. E equals mc^2 . In other words, mass and energy are different forms of the same phenomenon. As an experiment, you might try this: A strong beam of energy is shot past a heavy electrical field of energy of the atomic nucleus and an electron and positron appear in its place.

"As far as 'lifting up the hood' of a UFO to see the workings, I have never been able to catch up to one yet.

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"As to his questioning my statement 'made no sound'. I usually take the dictionary meaning "the sensation experienced through the sense of hearing" usually considered from approx. 30 hertz to 20Khz. On any encounters I have had with UFOs, unfortunately, my lab instruments were not at hand so consequently cannot say whether or not there were "sound" waves beyond my hearing capabilities.

"A theory is a tentative proposal made to fit known fact in an attempt to explain, using known fact as a basis for the supposition. Psychokinetics is provable to my way of thinking; I have had some success with this myself and I have the figures on my experiments, if you would care to see them. This force, even with the limited power of the human mind, can be very handy, just think of the results one could achieve when we eventually discover the means to amplify it, a safe, economical, non-contaminating means of transportation. Is there any reason why, some more developed person or persons, on earth or elsewhere, have not developed an amplifying method and are presently using it to their advantage?

"Any more questions?"

-- Frank M. Mobley, Feb. 12, 1971.

RE: UFO COMMENTARY Special Issue, Vol.2 No.1.

"Just wanted to compliment you on your fine issue of Spring 1971. The bibliography on the US UFO literature was a tremendous contribution to UFO research."

-- Gray Barker, April 30, 1971.

RE: UFO COMMENTARY Special Issue, Vol.2 No.1.

"I was so impressed with the Spring, 1971 Special Research Issue of UFO Commentary that I felt I should at least drop you a note.

"You have made a definite contribution to progressive UFO research with this issue. With articles by David Saunders, Lucius Farish, Larry Bryant, John Keel and Allen Benz, you can't go wrong. I found all of these articles most interesting. Of all the U.S. publications I find UFO Commentary, APRO Bulletin, Skybook and Data-Net to be the best. As I have concentrated on Missouri reports and for the past 20 months have specialized in landing trace cases, I have gone through most of the available UFO publications from the United States and other countries.

"Again, congratulations on your excellent publication and keep up the good work!"
-- Ted Phillips, April, 1971.

RE: UFO COMMENTARY Special Research Issue, Vol.2 No.1.

"Many congratulations on the production of a fine first anniversary special research issue. A fitting climax to a really excellent year of UFO Commentary on all levels of research and one which I should like to see repeated in the Spring of 1972..."
-- Gerald Lovell, May 10, 1971.

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RE: "The Mysterious Cohoke Light," UFO COMMENTARY, Vol.1 No.4.

"I have read with some interest your reprint article, "The Mysterious Cohoke Light," by Jay Mundy. Having seen the lights - or some lights - myself, I am moved to comment, particularly re the writer's easy solution.

"Mr. Mundy's account seems mixed up as to the number of trips he made to Cohoke. On p. 17 he states "I was to end up making 15 trips in all--" result "Zero;" and, in the next sentence, "after the tenth visit, I gave it up." However, while car traffic, in the country, is usually heavier in the summer than in other seasons, it is a hard-to-believe coincidence that, in the course of 10-15 trips probably entailing at least 20-30 hours of watching during the fall, winter and spring, 1969-70, not even one set of car lights came within his view.

"An article in Fate Magazine some 8-10 years ago mentioned that car headlights had been suggested as a possible source of the lights; but ruled them out, since the lights were first observed more than 50 years earlier, at which time, c.a. 1910, there were very few automobiles in or passing through that area. Mr. Mundy's skepticism might well have been used to take with a few shakes of salt the denials of the senior residents of Sweet Hall that they had ever seen - or, in one or two cases, even heard of the mystery lights. Considering the nuisances and troubles inflicted on the families in that section by the noisy, hoodlum - even pyromaniac-elements among the curiosity seekers, these men could fairly be excused a few white lies in self-defense.

"In October, 1963 two friends and I went up to see the lights, reaching the Sweet Hall depot at 10 P. M. It was a clear, still night, and we were alone there. After about 25 minutes of looking up the long stretch of track, we saw two quick flashes of white light, apparently about a furlong away and 8-10 feet above the rails...this was repeated a few minutes later; then the light seemed to blend, and were visible for 4-5 seconds. Around 11 o'clock a larger, bluish light appeared, less brilliant than the white ones, in about the same place, and held for 3 - 4 seconds twice. I walked down the track about 100 yards and waited, and it came on again for a few seconds, seemingly no nearer than when I first saw it. I went another 100 yards, waited a few minutes, then rejoined my friends by the station. About 11:30 a pale, green light, with a wavering effect spread across the track at tree-top level, i.e. 30-35 feet up on the tress, and 20-25 feet above the track on the raised causeway. This alternately faded and brightened, with a shimmering effect that made the tree leaves on each side seem iridescent. It held for 4-5 seconds; then repeated 2 or 3 times within a minute. About 11:50 the blue light flashed briefly once or twice; and that was the end of the show, though we waited until 12:30 before leaving. None of these were car lights. The greenish light could not have been faked without an elaborately rigged set-up and special, probably expensive equipment. The other lights, appearing 8 feet or more above the track, seemed to be suspended at a higher level than would be the case with lights held by a hoaxer.

"My older friend and I were notified, and I continue to be so today. The younger man, a medical student, diagnosed it as swamp gas. Although I don't know whether there is a real swamp near there, two ditches, 4-6 feet deep, flank the track.

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"Swamp gas can come in different colors, and of course, move around; e.g. the ignis fatuus; but its light is more softly incandescent than those we saw, and does not commonly flash on and off. Swamp gas has become as standardized a cliché in attempting to account for mystery lights as Venus is in explaining UFOs. A cartoonist has pictured The Three Wise Men crossing the desert on camel-back and observing the Star of Bethlehem, as one of them explains, "Swamp gas."

"The following spring I went to Sweet Hall again, taking my wife for a Sunday afternoon drive; and made a search along the track and on both sides. About 120 yards from the depot I noticed flecks of tin or aluminum foil on a 14" iron disk attached to a switch bar. The disk was only about 3 feet above the track, but, with shiny foil pasted on it, it could reflect a flashlight beamed from the bushes beside the track. This and a charred beer can that probably had held lighted kerosene were my only finds. Obviously neither of these crude "props" could have made the lights we saw. At least reading the article squashed any intention of my going there again for amateur investigation, since it is now off limits for such purposes by the general public. Probably a university group, headed by a professor of parapsychology could get permission; but it seems likely that other matters, such as UFOs hitching on to high power lines or dumping in or drawing water from reservoirs might rate prior attention.

"It has been noticed and recorded that, with the passing of time and/or changing conditions even the long established "haunts," including ghosts, strange noises and lights, eventually fade away into limbo. Judging from the experience of the persistent Jay Mundy, it appears that the Cohoke-Sweet Hall lights may have left their old flashing grounds permanently, perhaps in search of a suitable place where they will not be disturbed by juvenile firebugs."

-- George Massinger, Jan. 1, 1971.

(A Few Appropriate Quotes on Polemics, continued from page 6)

causes which have served so many years as the focal point for the UFO believers' emotionalism and evangelism, and the vain crusade to convince an amused public that the minority viewpoint is the correct one.

The record of the past twenty years clearly demonstrates that the minority fringe - the so-called "scientific ufologists" - have been following the wrong course and have, in fact, done nothing but compound the ridicule attached to the subject, amplified the "noise" level, and defeated their own purposes and goals.

END